

War for independence costs the lives of Americans. Freedom has always cost, and it always will, and I think it is worth noting the time frame of the wars that this country has fought in and those who died.

In the War of Independence, 5,000 Americans died. In the Mexican-American War, there were 13,000 Americans. In the War Between the States, there were 250,000 Confederates and 350,000 troops of the Union army, but they were all Americans; 600,000 died for this country. In World War I, there was 116,000. In the great World War II, 408,000 died for this country.

My dad was one of those who served in the great World War II, and he, like many veterans of that war, never talked of that engagement until many, many years after that war was over with.

In Korea, it is sometimes said of the Korea war it is the forgotten war, 55,000 Americans died. In Vietnam, 58,000 died. In the first gulf war, 300 troopers died, and in our latest fight in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, 3,000 have died.

The point being, in these few wars that I have mentioned, not all of the wars, this country has always called upon the American warrior to be the one to protect us from the forces of all evil.

I have had the honor to be in Iraq with many of our troops, as many of our House Members have been, and I find them to be, in my opinion, the greatest military ever assembled, with their morale extremely high.

Over Labor Day weekend, I had the honor to go and see some of our troops in military hospitals overseas and to see and visit with them, and before I went, I asked my staff in Texas to see if we could arrange to have some of the local school kids write and make some homemade cards. In 2 days' notice, they were able to produce about 5,000 handmade cards that I took to our troops overseas, who were very grateful.

The point being, I think now in this time in our history our country is grateful to the American warrior for putting their life on the line for the rest of us. So we can do no better than to honor those who have served, the American warrior. And though it was said in the Vietnam era that some gave all and all gave some, that is true of the American veteran. So we thank them on this day and every day, those that served and lived and those that served and did die for this country.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SMART SECURITY

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, last week the American people voted for a new direction in the Nation's Iraq policy. If anything, with the mandate this Democratic majority received, we can be more unapologetic than ever about demanding an end to the Iraq occupation and insisting that we bring our troops home.

But I believe Iraq is a symptom of an even larger problem, that is, a foreign policy that chooses saber rattling over diplomacy and negotiation.

We need an entirely new national security paradigm. For too long, we have equated national security with war and with conquest. It is time we used less brawn and more brains to protect our people and our interests.

Iraq is exhibit A in the case that hawkishness does not necessarily make America safer.

That is where a SMART security plan comes. SMART stands for sensible, multilateral, American response to terrorism.

At its core is a belief that war is a very last resort, that peacekeeping and diplomacy, not invasion and occupation, must be the guiding lights of our foreign policy.

SMART also focuses on stopping the spread of weapons of mass destruction. Not by deposing regimes that do not have them, but with diplomacy, with vigorous inspection regimes and regional security arrangements.

SMART calls for a renewed commitment to the cooperative threat reduction program and calls on the United States to set an example for the world by living up to our own commitments to draw down our nuclear arsenal.

Because, Mr. Speaker, what moral authority do we have to pressure Iran or North Korea about their nuclear ambitions when our government consistently undermines the nuclear and ignores our multilateral obligations in this very area?

Being smart about national security means dramatically rearranging our budget priorities, which in turn means fewer obsolete Cold War weapons systems and more investment in strategies that actually address the security challenges of a new era.

Any smart approach to national security must include an ambitious international development program for impoverished nations, debt relief, democracy building, schooling for women and girls, human rights education, environmental programs, infrastructure development and more.

Think about this, Mr. Speaker. With the money spent on the invasion and occupation of Iraq, we could have fully funded global antihunger efforts for 14 years or provided basic immunization

to children around the world for 113 years or fully funded worldwide AIDS programs for 34 years. We could have spent hundreds of billions of dollars to save lives, instead of destroying them.

For the sake of the next generation, the only future that we have got, before we have destroyed civilization itself, we should strive for nothing less than the end of all wars.

Because of the insanity of war and its disproportionate impact on children, I am pledging never again to cast a vote in Congress in favor of any military action, barring an attack on the United States or protecting against genocide and/or ethnic cleansing, and then only with multilateral humanitarian intervention.

Nor will I pick sides in violent global conflicts, except to condemn all acts of war and terror regardless of ideology, regardless of national interests or religion that motivates them. I refuse to decide who is less wrong.

If I could be persuaded that taking up arms actually builds enduring stability, I would reconsider my position, but this notion that war begets peace is as illogical as it sounds. Our preemptive strike on Iraq has, in fact, been a catalyst for increased violence and higher rates of terrorism. Our continued occupation is emboldening the insurgents rather than defeating them. Instead of liberating a nation, the Bush doctrine has ripped it apart, ripped it apart at the seams, and instead of protecting America, it has dealt a blow to our very security.

"War," said Martin Luther King, Junior, "is a poor chisel to carve out tomorrow." Tomorrow belongs to our children. So for their sake, Mr. Speaker, let us protect America by relying not on our basest impulses, but on the most honorable and humane of American values, and let us bring our troops home now from Iraq.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SODREL). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING DR. ROBERT LIPSON

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of turn for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a great man who led a purpose-driven life that touched many in my State of Georgia and around the country. Unfortunately, he lost his life Friday afternoon in Marietta, Georgia, riding home from work at Kennestone Hospital on his motorcycle, just a mile and a half from his home.

Dr. Robert Lipson, the chief executive officer and president of Wellstar

Health System, was a man of honor and genuine character. For 5 years, he has boldly led Wellstar, a renowned health system of five hospitals in northwest Georgia. Under his leadership, the Wellstar Kennestone Hospital recently gained an open heart surgery program and an expanded 84-bed patient care tower. Moreover, he has worked to attract world-class physicians to the entire five-hospital system.

Before moving to Atlanta, Dr. Lipson obtained his medical degree from Tulane University, and then he served his country for 2 years in the United States Army. When he moved to Cobb County, he began his 25 years of practicing internal medicine at Kennestone Hospital, and it was my good fortune to meet him then, and we became close friends and colleagues, often caring for each other's patients.

When Dr. Lipson saw the great need for primary care physicians in his community, he decided to leave his lucrative practice and put together the Wellstar team. There, he helped build the Wellstar Physicians Group, which currently is comprised of 250 physicians who are responsible for nearly a million annual patient visits in Northwest Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Lipson will also be remembered as a prolific philanthropist. He was known for his generous spirit, always willing to support charities that needed his help. And due to the financial success of the system he led, he was able to give back compassionately to the community.

Dr. Lipson was also an esteemed amateur photographer, with his art being most recently displayed at Kennesaw State University in Cobb County. And admirers of his work describe the photographs as, and I quote, "awe inspiring," and him as a remarkable talent.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot say enough about this fine man, a man who did more in his too-short 60 years than many can aspire to in a much longer lifetime. Dr. Lipson is survived by his gracious wife, Livvy; his daughter, Dr. Rachel Lipson, who is a practicing neonatologist in Boston; and his son, Aaron, who specializes in health care law. His family meant so much to him, and I want to offer my sincere condolences to them during this time of their profound loss of a loving husband, a devoted father and devoted grandfather.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ELECTION DAY PRIORITIES

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take Mrs. MCCARTHY's time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. OWENS. On election day, Mr. Speaker, there was one message that was sent that seems to be ignored, one very positive message. Six States had on their agenda referendums on the minimum wage. They wanted to raise the minimum wage at the State level. In all six States those provisions passed. The voters have sent us a message. I think they spoke in those six States for the sentiment right across the entire Nation.

People are a little upset about our refusal to govern here, our refusal to raise the Federal minimum wage above the present level of \$5.25 an hour. They want to see action. They are taking action at the State level. And I think one of the things that we should do here, one of the first things we should do when we return in December, is vote to raise the minimum wage. We ought to send that positive message.

While there are debates and speculations on a number of other things that the voters said to us, while there is a great deal of debate about redeployment, about a pull-out of troops in Iraq, while there are still people who want to accuse us of cutting and running; all those things will be happening for a while, but it is a simple matter that we have not raised the minimum wage in 9 years. It is a very simple matter. The Members of Congress have enjoyed increases which amount to more than \$30,000 over that same period.

We have heard again and again what the consequences are about not raising the minimum wage. We know that a family on minimum wage is earning \$10,200 a year. If they work every day, 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, they come out with a little more than \$10,000 a year on the minimum wage. They say there are not many people still on the minimum wage, but the statistics show differently. The statistics show that families also depend on young people, who also go into the work force and are earning a minimum wage. They need to earn more also.

We made a lot out of boasting about the fact that America has now reached the point of our population being 300 million. We have pointed out that we are the third largest nation in the world, and that is something to be proud of. I think it is. But let us take a look at that 300 million in terms of people who are able to be productive, people able to contribute something to society, people able to take care of themselves. That is the way I define the middle class.

The middle class consists of people who can take care of themselves because they have the capacity to earn income to take care of themselves, and

they also have the capacity to make some contributions to the larger society. We need a middle class. We need more middle class folks.

It is said that the whole nation of Japan is middle class. They do not have a poverty class. I do not know whether it is true or not, but there is a whole lot to it in terms of income levels in Japan. All other nations still have problems with different stratifications in society. In the case of America, 300 million we are, but stop and think about the fact that, in China, with 1.2 billion people, in 2 or 3 years, they expect one-fourth of the Chinese to enter the middle class. They have a rapidly growing middle class. That means, in 2 or 3 years, China will have a middle class which is 300 million, as large as the entire population of the United States. And India has a similar population, and the dynamics of the economy at work in India are similar to those in China. They will have a middle class of 300 million people.

Three hundred million people is about the number of the European common market also. Three hundred million people is the number of people of African descent across the world who speak English. So 300 million people, let us look at it in the perspective of, if we are going to maintain our leadership in the world in a competitive global environment, then we will need all 300 million of our Americans to become productive citizens. That means they ought to be brought into the middle class.

The minimum wage is just a small step forward. You have to also improve education. You have to also take away the burden of having to pay for health care. All those things have to happen. But the simplest thing we can do, the thing we should do when we come back in December, is send a message to the American people that we are going to raise the minimum wage. We are going to move in that one small way toward the creation and the sustenance of a middle class, people who will be able to send their children to college and people who will be able to make a contribution to the global competition that we are going to find ourselves in.

Unfortunately, recent reports by the Associated Press show that certain minorities are lagging behind. Latinos and blacks are lagging behind whites, and Asians are also lagging behind whites in terms of the income gap. The income gap is growing instead of shrinking. So we have work to do, and step one is let's pass the minimum wage as fast as possible. Let's move it up to \$7.25 an hour. That is the least we can do before the end of the session.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)